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Cc: masopust@lodi-nj.org[]
From: Madelene Geswaldo
Sent: Mon 7/25/2011 7:33:25 PM
Subject: Passaic River that runs through Lodi, NJ

I am turning to you for some guidance and direction. For many years, the thread of river that runs through Lodi, NJ has been a dumping zone.

I can recall as a child when the textile factories along the river in what now is Memorial Park , existed and the color of the river would change. At the time we had no idea of the terrible effects on our lives and environment- that was in the late 50's early 60's.

I returned to Lodi back in 1993. The factories were no longer standing but the river as always was full of waste, garbage and debris. Ducks and geese along with critters still find a way to live and navigate these terrible waters. We have had major flooding over the years, my house is directly affected. During hurricane Floyd, there was 5 feet of dirty water in my basement and I became ill while clean up. The town at that time did next to nothing to assist us. But the question of the river and it's condition remain. During each administration I have asked what is being done to first, clean up the river and secondly, work on the river banks so that the loss we experience does not continue to happen. The response is that federal monies are needed for both- the response is quick and dismissive. In the years I have been back in in my Lodi home, nothing has been done. Before me it was my fathers home. And he went through several major floods. When it rains hard we live in fear that if the river swells, we stand to loose a large part of our homes.

I am a 58 year old woman, and I suppose if this continues nothing will be done in my lifetime. However, I am simply fed up with the this apathy and it is disgraceful to see all the garbage that can be easily removed stored in the river with little or no concern.

I am committed to take action to clean up the river. Please send me the information that is needed to contact government officials in NJ or agencies to start this process. I am also going to be in touch with my congress person as well as agencies and groups that can provide some answers and direction. The river flows by the park where children play and families gather. As an educator I know that the strongest lessons learned are those that are modeled and lived. In Lodi, the lesson has been to turn a blind eye, the message is "we don't care" the river is a place to dump and we care very little about our environment. Just take a walk through our town. I would like to change that, I am one person but I have a voice and I never walk away from a challenge. Please be in touch with me. I have also left messages on each of your voice mails.

Gratefully,
Madelene Geswaldo
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